

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? *Started Dec 11, 2008 at Cannon Falls + last meeting was at Wadena*

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☐ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☒ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-143-001

1- Coal fired plants are not clean & we do not have adequate carbon dioxide removal system, which needs to be in place before construction of more transmission lines.

I-143-002

2- Power plants in Wisconsin, like Pleasant Prairie should be responsible for producing electricity in their own state rather than getting it from Minnesota & North Dakota.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

I-143-001

Your comment has been noted. Due to the transmission grid's interconnected nature as well as to electricity's nature - it's generally difficult to identify a specific source of electricity on the grid.

The proposed CapX2020 transmission lines will serve the region's expected growth and help begin to meet Minnesota's Renewable Energy Standard (RES), which requires utilities to deliver 25 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2025 (Xcel Energy is mandated to deliver 30 percent by 2020, with 25 percent from wind). Most of that energy comes from wind turbines.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-143-002

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-143-003

1. Our farm is located on Highway 56 & we have some very rich agricultural soil. It is important that we can continue producing crops that will prevent soil changes as more land is being used for development purposes.

2. We do have wet land on our property & the law is written that we cannot tamper with that land because of matted & other vegetation & quaternary loess. Cap & 2020 does not have to follow the law.

3. We have a herd of cattle that graze in the area that has been proposed for the line. They will no longer come close to stay & stay. We may have to sell our cattle & everyone can just depend on the big factory farms to produce the food, this will be another way to get rid of the small rural farms.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-143-004

1. I have been employed in the health field for many years & on a Rd. We are very concerned about the long term effects these high voltage lines can have on the health & safety of our grandchildren who live on our farm, ourselves & also our herd of beef cattle.

2. Biological, which we mentioned above #2, also this would have a severe adverse effect on our natural resources including all the wild life we have in this area.

3. Our farm has been in the family for many years. Recently a man by the name of Hans Bakken who is a local historian from Jondal, Norway traveled to our farm & is writing a book about a Norwegian family that settled in our farm in 1876. The picture of the farm will be in his book. We need to preserve the beauty & culture of rural America.

I-143-005

I-143-003

Your comment has been noted. Regulations and potential impacts to wetlands will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-143-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-143-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-143-006

Would like to have more explain as to why they projected that there will be an increase in population in Minnesota to require more electricity. We did not see any statistics as to how they came to that conclusion.

I-143-007

Did not mention what they will do to prevent emissions of CO₂

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: *Henry & Runice BAUER*
 Representing (Optional): _____
 Mailing Address: *42599 Hwy 56 Blvd.*
 City: *NEERSTRAND* State: *MM* - *55053* Zip Code: _____
 Daytime Phone (Optional): *507-789-6322*

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-143-006

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-143-006

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-143-007

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to air quality will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.